Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A plugged honeycomb structure comprising:

partition walls arranged in such a manner as to form a plurality of cells extending from one end face to the other end face through an axial direction;

an outer peripheral wall which surrounds an outer periphery of the partition wall; and

plugging portions disposed in such a manner as to plug the cell in either end face,

characterized in that at least some of the plugging portions arranged in ~~at least~~ the vicinity of the outer peripheral wall protrude from ~~the end face, and~~both end faces and a tip ~~of a~~ of the protruding portion is substantially flat or has a moderate curved face.

20. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, wherein some or all of the plugging portions arranged in a portion other than the vicinity of the outer periphery protrude from the end face, and the tip of the protruding portion is substantially flat or has the moderate curved face.

21. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, comprising a plugging portion including a protruding portion including a portion whose sectional shape crossing the axial direction at right angles is substantially circular.

22. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, comprising a plugging portion including a protruding portion including a portion whose sectional shape crossing the axial direction at right angles is a substantially polygonal shape.

23. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 22, wherein the substantially polygonal shape has a shape whose corner portion has been cut into a linear or curved shape.

24. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, comprising a plugging portion including a protruding portion whose sectional shape parallel to the axial direction is a substantially quadrangular shape.

25. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 24, wherein the substantially quadrangular shape is a shape whose corner portion has been cut into a linear or curved shape.

26. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, wherein a maximum height from the end face to the tip of each protruding portion is substantially equal.

27. (Previously Presented) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, wherein porosity of the protruding portion is smaller than that of another portion of the plugged honeycomb structure.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a plugged honeycomb structure comprising:

preparing a honeycomb structure comprising porous partition walls arranged in such a manner as to form a plurality of cells extending from one end face to the other end face through an axial direction, and

a plugging step of plugging at least some of the cells in either end face,

characterized in that the plugging step includes: a masking sub-step of disposing a film on the end face in such a manner as to mask some of the cells; and a filling sub-step of filling a predetermined cell which is not masked with a plugging material, and the

filling sub-step includes: filling the cell with the plugging material up to a height which is not less than a height equal to that of an upper face of the film.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein in the filling sub-step, the plugging material is applied at least twice.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein in the filling sub-step, the plugging material is applied once.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 30, wherein the plugging material is a slurry including a liquid, and the liquid is a liquid which does not substantially penetrate into the partition walls.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein in the masking sub-step, the film is disposed in such a manner as to cover all the cells, and a hole is made in a portion of the film, corresponding to a predetermined cell.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 32, wherein a hole is made in such a manner that periphery of the hole is raised in a thickness direction of the film.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein the plugging material is a slurry containing a liquid, and viscosity of the slurry is in a range of 10 to 1000 dPa•s.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein the plugging material is a slurry containing at least one type selected from a group consisting of a powdered organic material derived from plant, powdered synthetic resin, powdered carbon-based material, hollow synthetic resin, solid

normal-temperature liquid or gas material, high-melting material, porous material, and hollow inorganic material.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing the plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 28, wherein after filling the cell with the plugging material, volume of the plugging material is expanded, and the protruding portion is protruded from the filter end face.

37. (New) The plugged honeycomb structure according to claim 19, wherein at least some of the plugging portions located in a central portion at one end face of the honeycomb structure do not protrude.